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South West Salop United Districts

ANNUAL REPORT



OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
for the Year

1946

ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

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CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health :

JAMES L. GREGORY, M.B., CH.B., F.R.F.P.S., D.P.H., D.T.M. & HY.

Sanitary Inspectors :

†Atcham R.D.	W. H. PURSLOW	Cert. R. San. Inst.
*†Bishop's Castle M.B.	H. LONGDEN	Cert. R. San. Inst. (resigned 30/11/46)
*Church Stretton U.D.	E. J. MARSH	M.Inst. M. & Cy. Eng. (resigned 30/9/46)
*†Church Stretton U.D.	A. COUPE	Cert. R. San. Inst. (appointed 1/10/46)
*†Clun R.D.	H. A. ELLIOTT	Cert. R. San. Inst.
*Asst. Inspector	J. BOSWELL	Cert. R. San. Inst.
Wenlock M.B.	C. J. THOMAS	Cert. R. San. Inst.

* In these districts the Inspector is also Surveyor.

† Meat Inspector's Certificate held.

County Tuberculosis Officers :

DR. T. R. ELLIOTT AND DR. A. C. WATKIN,
Tuberculosis Dispensary,
17 Belmont,
Shrewsbury.

Public Health Laboratory Service

(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health)

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY,
ROYAL SALOP INFIRMARY, SHREWSBURY.
Tel. No. 4389

Bacteriologist : DR. C. A. JONES.

Pathologist : DR. G. GRANT.

South West Salop United Districts.

PONTESBURY,

1st JULY, 1947.

To the Chairmen and Members of the Councils.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting the annual report on the health of the districts for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

The report is drawn up in accordance with Circular 13/47 England, of the Ministry of Health, dated 13th March, 1947.

The year was again one with a very low incidence of infectious disease, and it is satisfactory to observe that only one case of Diphtheria was notified in the five districts and the child concerned had not been immunized against the disease. Previous to the protection of the child population against Diphtheria there used to be sixty or seventy cases of this disease each year in the area.

The number of deaths from Tuberculosis during the year was only seven, and this gives a death-rate of 0.147 per 1,000, of the population, which is the lowest rate for the districts of which I can find any trace. Of the seven deaths five were due to the pulmonary form of the disease and two to the non-pulmonary form.

Progress in the building of new houses was slow, and only sixty-three Council houses were completed, of which twenty-seven were temporary. Twenty-four were traditional brick houses, and twelve were Swedish timber houses. It is expected that a total of at least 241 houses will be completed in 1947. Shortage of materials for building purposes has been the chief cause of delay in housing schemes during 1946, and the same cause will probably be the obstacle to be overcome in 1947.

Schemes for taking piped water supplies to parts of the Rural Districts not already supplied have been submitted for approval, as have also plans for new sewage disposal works and sewers, but work has not yet commenced.

Proposals under the National Health Service Act, 1946, as regards Ambulance Services and also for Vaccination and Diphtheria Immunization have been submitted to the Ministry of Health by the County Council.

JAMES L. GREGORY,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

The following are certain general statistics relating to the five districts in the South-West Salop Area :—

ATCHAM R.D.	Registrar-General's estimate of population—mid 1946	...	...	20,000
	Area in acres	...	...	134,465
	Number of inhabited houses as at 31/12/46	...	...	5,300
	Rateable Value	...	...	£114,514
	Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£444

BISHOP'S CASTLE M.B.	Registrar-General's estimate of population—mid 1946	...	...	1,340
	Area in acres	...	...	1,867
	Number of inhabited houses as at 31/12/46	...	...	396
	Rateable Value	...	...	£5,744
	Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£21

CHURCH STRETTON U.D.	Registrar-General's estimate of population—mid 1946	...	...	2,428
	Area in acres	...	...	6,085
	Number of inhabited houses as at 31/12/46	...	...	690
	Rateable Value	...	...	£20,623
	Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£83/7/2

CLUN R.D.	Registrar-General's estimate of population—mid 1946	...	...	9,244
	Area in acres	...	...	132,512
	Number of inhabited houses as at 31/12/46	...	...	2,880
	Rateable Value	...	...	£24,400
	Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£104/11/4

WENLOCK M.B.	Registrar-General's estimate of population—mid 1946	...	...	14,360
	Area in acres	...	...	22,657
	Number of inhabited houses as at 31/12/46	...	...	4,338
	Rateable Value	...	...	£50,038
	Product of 1d. rate	...	...	£193/8/3

ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births —	Legitimate	... ... 397	194	203
	Illegitimate	... ... 36	19	17
		Total ... <u>433</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>220</u>

Birth-Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population=21.1.

Still Births	5	4	1
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Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births=11.4.

Deaths	206	103	103
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Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population=10.3.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live and still births
(a) From puerperal sepsis	...	—	—
(b) From other puerperal causes	...	—	—
Total ...	...	Nil	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(1) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	... ...	8	20.1
(2) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	... ...	3	83.3
(3) All infants per 1,000 total live births...	... ... ...	11	25.4

Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	...	25
„ „ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ WHOOPING COUGH	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ DIARRHOEA (under two years)	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ TUBERCULOSIS (all ages)	...	...	...	...	4

BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

VITAL STATISTICS

			Total	M.	F.
Live Births —	Legitimate	...	...	17	5
	Illegitimate	...	...	1	—
			Total	18	5
		...	—	—	—
			—	—	—

Birth-Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population=13.4.

Still Births	Nil	—	—
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Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births=Nil.

Deaths	12	7	5
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Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population=8.9.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live and still births
(a) From puerperal sepsis	...	—	—
(b) From other puerperal causes	—	—	—
		—	—
Totals ...	Nil	Nil	—
	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under one year :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(1) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	—	—
(2) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	—	—
(3) All infants per 1,000 total live births...	...	—	—

Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ WHOOPING COUGH	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Tuberculosis (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—

CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	M.	F.
Live Births—	Legitimate	... ... 45	25	20
	Illegitimate	... ... 2	1	1
	Totals	... 47	26	21
		==	==	==

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population=19.3.

Still Births 1	—	1
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Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births=20.8.

Deaths 42	17	25
--------	--------------------	----	----

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population=17.3.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live and still births
(a) From puerperal sepsis	...	—	—
(b) From other puerperal causes		—	—
Totals	...	Nil	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(1) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	... ... 2	2	44.4
(2) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births —	—	—
(3) All infants per 1,000 total births...	... ... ... 2	2	42.5

Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ WHOOPING COUGH	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ DIARRHOEA (under two years)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ TUBERCULOSIS (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1

CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

VITAL STATISTICS

			Total	M.	F.
Live Births —	Legitimate	...	167	86	81
	Illegitimate	...	14	6	8
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	...	181	92	89
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population=19.5

Still Births	5	2	3
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Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births=26.8

Deaths	114	56	58
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Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population=12.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live and still births
(a) From puerperal sepsis	...	—	—
(b) From other puerperal causes	...	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	Nil	Nil
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths of Infants under one year :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(1) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	5	30.0
(2) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	1	71.4
(3) All infants per 1,000 total births	...	6	33.1

Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	...	19
„ „ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ DIARRHOEA (under two years)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ TUBERCULOSIS (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—

BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

VITAL STATISTICS

			Total	M.	F.
Live Births—	Legitimate	...	275	125	150
	Illegitimate	...	25	14	11
	Totals	...	<u>300</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>161</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population = 20.8

Still Births	9	3	6
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Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births = 29.1

Deaths	195	94	101
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Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population = 13.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live and still births
(a) From puerperal sepsis	...	—	—
(b) From other puerperal causes	...	—	—
Totals	...	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>

Deaths of Infants under one year :

		No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000 live births
(1) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	17	61.8
(2) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	2	80.0
(3) All infants per 1,000 total births	...	19	63.3

Deaths from CANCER (all ages)	...	...	...	...	30
„ „ MEASLES (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ WHOOPING COUGH (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ DIARRHOEA (under two years)	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ TUBERCULOSIS (all ages)	...	...	...	...	2

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-1946 population of the five districts shows an increase of 1,128 over the figure for 1945, the population being estimated as 47,372.

Area	Estimated population		
	1945	1946	+ or —
Atcham R.D. ...	19,440	20,000	+ 560
Bishop's Castle M.B. ...	1,324	1,340	+ 16
Church Stretton U.D. ...	2,475	2,428	- 47
Clun R.D. ...	9,135	9,244	+ 109
Wenlock M.B. ...	13,870	14,360	+ 490
S.W. Salop ...	46,244	47,372	+ 1,128

The figure for 1945 showed an increase of 864 over the 1939 figure, so that there has been a total increase of 1,992 since 1939. The highest population figure reached was in 1941, when it was 51,400 for the five districts.

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The total number of births registered was 979, which is 185 more than the previous year, and represents a birth-rate of 20.6 per 1,000 of the population. (Birth-rate for England and Wales= 19.1.)

Of the total births, 78 were illegitimate (8%) as compared with 82 (10%) in 1945.

The following are the births and birth-rates for the separate districts:—

District	Total Births	Birth-rate per 1,000 of population
Atcham R.D. ...	433	21.1
Bishop's Castle ...	18	13.4
Church Stretton U.D. ...	47	19.3
Clun R.D. ...	181	19.5
Wenlock M.B. ...	300	20.8
S.W. Salop ...	979	20.6

Still Births

These numbered 20 in all (Atcham 5, Bishop's Castle nil, Church Stretton 1, Clun 5, and Wenlock 9). This gives a Still Birth Rate of 0.42 per 1,000 of the population. The rate for England and Wales was 0.53.

The rate for still births is lower than in 1945, but should be taken in conjunction with the Infant Mortality Rate, which is higher this year than last. If the two rates are taken together it will be found that there is very little difference in the last three years.

Year	Still Births	Infant Deaths	Total Live and Still Births	Rate per 1,000
1944	...	16	37	53
1945	...	30	25	55
1946	...	20	38	58

The combined rate for England and Wales (i.e., Still Births and Infant Deaths per 1,000 total births) was 68.0. The further reduction of the Still Birth Rate will depend on increased care of the expectant mother and improved skill and care at her confinement. Although the Still Birth Rate has been reduced in this country considerably during the last ten years there is still room for improvement.

Deaths

A total of 569 deaths were registered, giving a crude death rate of 12.0 per 1,000. (England and Wales, 11.5.)

No factor of correction for age and sex is at present available, so that the death rates given are not comparable with those for the country or for other areas.

The following are the numbers of deaths and the death rates for each area :—

District		Total No. of deaths	Death rate per 1,000 of population
Atcham R.D.	...	206	10.3
Bishop's Castle M.B.	...	12	8.9
Church Stretton U.D.	...	42	17.3
Clun R.D.	...	114	12.3
Wenlock M.B.	...	195	13.5
South-West Salop	...	569	12.0

It will be seen that the death rate at Church Stretton is higher than in the other areas, and this is no doubt due to the fact that there are a considerable number of elderly retired persons who come to reside in that area.

A table showing the causes of the deaths in each area is given at the end of this report, and it will be noticed that, apart from seven deaths due to Tuberculosis and eleven from Influenza, there were no deaths from any of the infectious diseases.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

No death took place from causes associated with childbirth in any of the districts. This should be an encouragement to all those who have worked towards the saving of mothers' lives.

The Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales in 1946 was 1.43 per 1,000 (total) births.

Natural Increase of Population

The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 410, which is a larger figure than usual. In no district did the deaths exceed the births.

Infantile Mortality

The total number of infant deaths reported during the year was 38, and this gives an Infantile Mortality rate of 39 per 1,000 live births. (England and Wales, 43.)

The rate in 1945 was 31, and in 1944 it was 39.

The higher number of deaths this year is due to an increase in the number in the Wenlock Borough, where 19 infant deaths were reported as against 10 in 1945.

District	Total No. of Infant Deaths			Infant Mortality Rate
Atcham R.D.	11			25
Bishop's Castle M.B.	Nil			—
Church Stretton U.D.	2			42
Clun R.D.	6			33
Wenlock M.B.	19			63
South-West Salop	38			39

Of the 38 infants who died before reaching the age of 12 months, the ages at death were as follows:—

under 1 day	under 1 mth.	aged 1-3 mths.	aged 3-6 mths.	aged 6-9 mths.	aged 9-12 mths.
6	12	3	7	8	2

With regard to the infant deaths in the Wenlock Borough, these were not confined to one area, but were distributed in the four Wards. The causes of death were :—

Prematurity	...	7	Infections	...	8
Accident	...	3	Malformation	...	1

The number of infant deaths can be reduced by improved housing and better hygiene in the home, education of the mothers in the feeding and general care of their infants, and by improved ante-natal and obstetrical facilities.

The overcrowding which is present in parts of the Wenlock Borough must be a factor in the cause of some of these infant deaths, i.e., in those due to infections.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Staff

In September, Mr. E. J. Marsh resigned his position as Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector at Church Stretton after many years of service. Mr. A. Coupe was appointed to the combined posts in October. At Bishop's Castle, Mr. H. Longden resigned to take up a new appointment and the post has not yet been filled. An assistant Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor was appointed during the year in the Clun Rural District.

Laboratory Facilities

The Donaldson Hudson Laboratory at the Royal Salop Infirmary has carried out the bacteriological work in connection with water and milk samples in the various areas. In addition to reports on 205 pathological specimens there have been received 237 reports on water samples and 50 reports on milk samples during the year. My thanks are again due to Dr. J. A. Fodden and his staff for their co-operation and help in this work.

Ambulance Facilities

Control of the ambulance services under the National Health Services Act, 1946, will be the duty of the County Council, and in Circular 22/47 the Ministry of Health have fixed the last date for proposals to be sent in as the 30th June, 1947.

The following is a list of the ambulances available in the districts :—

Description	Station	Telephone No.
County Council	Cross Houses Hosp.	Cross Houses 242
St. John's Ambulance Association	Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury 3697
Pontesbury Ambulance Association	Pontesbury	Pontesbury 28
Madeley Ambulance Committee	Madeley	Ironbridge 55
Lady Forester's Trust	Much Wenlock	Much Wenlock 203
Bishop's Castle and Clun R.D.C. Joint Committee	Bishop's Castle	Bishop's Castle 81 or 26
Infectious Diseases Ambulance	Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury 2510

Hospitals

The following is a list of the hospitals available in the county for the residents in the five districts in South-West Salop :—

Name of Hospital	Number of Beds	Situation	Remarks
Salop Royal Infirmary	209	Shrewsbury	General Hospital
County Council Hosp.	186	Cross Houses	General Hospital Maternity Cases
Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital	53	Shrewsbury	Eye, Ear and Throat Cases
Orthopaedic Hospital	360	Oswestry	Orthopaedic Cases
Much Wenlock Cottage Hospital	22	Much Wenlock	General and Maternity Cases
Broseley Cottage Hosp.	20	Broseley	General and Maternity Cases
Shirlett Sanatorium	62	Broseley	Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Prees Heath Sanatorium	11	Prees Heath	Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Monkmoor Isolation Hospital	56	Shrewsbury	Infectious Diseases

Chronic Sick Wards in Public Assistance Institutions

The following are the number of beds allotted to the chronic sick in the institutions named :—

Ironbridge	...	151	Madeley	Chronic Sick
Bishop's Castle	...	33	Bishop's Castle	Chronic Sick

Nursing in the Home

This work is carried out by the nurses of the various nursing associations throughout the area, and details of the work will be found in the report of the Shropshire Nursing Federation to which the associations are affiliated.

The District Nurses have done good work in getting parents to consent to having their children immunized against Diphtheria, as in the scattered rural districts many parents cannot bring their infants to Welfares, and it is only by visiting in the homes that consent can be got. The work of School Nurses and Health Visitors in this connection has also been of the greatest value in obtaining a high percentage of acceptances.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

There are combined School Clinics and Infant Welfare Centres at Bishop's Castle, Church Stretton and Ironbridge.

The days of meeting of the three combined Clinics and Welfares are as follows :—

Bishop's Castle ... First and third Friday afternoons each month.
 Church Stretton ... First and third Thursday afternoons each month.
 Iron Bridge ... Friday afternoons—weekly.

Welfare Attendances, 1946

The Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-natal Centres are administered by the County Health Department, and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following figures showing the attendances during the year.

Centre	Under 1 year		1-5 years		Expectant Mothers	
	First Visits	Total Attend.	First Visits	Total Attend.	First Visits	Total Attend
Bishop's Castle	26	107	19	180	2	12
Church Stretton	53	373	32	484	23	52
Iron Bridge	172	1,655	56	1,312	33	72
Totals	251	2,135	107	1,976	58	136

These figures show that the percentage of first visits of children under one year of age to the total number of live births in the five districts is 25%. A few additional infants attend the Centre at Shrewsbury by special arrangement.

The percentage of expectant mothers attending the ante-natal centres for the first time (per total births and still-births) was 6%. In the country districts many of these cases cannot attend at a Centre but are visited by the district nurses or by their own doctors.

Venereal Diseases Clinic

This Clinic is held at 1 Belmont, Shrewsbury, at the following times :—

Males	Females
Tues. and Fri., 6-8 p.m.	Mon. and Wed., 2-4 p.m.

Tuberculosis Dispensary

This is held at 17 Belmont, Shrewsbury (Telephone number Shrewsbury 3031). Cases are usually referred to the Tuberculosis Officers by private practitioners, and suitable cases are admitted to the Sanatorium at Shirlett.

Diphtheria Immunization

This is carried out either at the Schools and Welfare Centres by the County Health Staff or by general practitioners at their surgeries, or at the patients' homes. Further particulars of numbers immunized in 1946 will be found in Section F of the report.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

This section of the report deals with water supplies, sewerage and sewage disposal, public cleansing and other matters which are of importance with regard to environmental hygiene.

As mentioned in last year's report, the two Rural District Councils have had surveys made of possible water supplies for the whole of their districts, and schemes have been forwarded to the Ministry of Health and the County Council for their approval.

During the early part of the year also a comprehensive report on water supplies for the whole County of Salop was submitted by the County Council's Engineer, and this is under consideration.

Progress in regard to these new schemes has, of necessity, been slow, and no doubt some years will elapse before they can be completed. Mention is made of any new works or extensions with regard to water supplies which have been carried out by the respective councils in the different areas.

For convenience the matters dealt with in this section are all dealt with together according to the areas concerned.

ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

Water Supplies

The Council's two piped supplies, namely the West Atcham and Pimhill supplies, have proved satisfactory during the year both as regards quantity and quality.

Samples for bacteriological examination are taken monthly, and these show the two supplies to be of a very high standard of purity. The question as to whether the West Atcham supply should be softened centrally has been under the consideration of the Council during the year, but it has been decided not to proceed with this matter at present (1947). The water shows a hardness of 27 parts per 100,000, of which 2.5 parts are permanent hardness and 24.5 are temporary hardness. It is usually considered that a water with a hardness of more than 20 parts per 100,000 should be softened centrally, the advantages of a soft water being as follows:—

- (1) Saving of soap and labour in washing and cleaning.
- (2) Increase in life of textiles and therefore a saving in expenditure on wearing apparel, etc.
- (3) Saving of fuel in heating water.

During the year an extension of the West Atcham Mains has been made to Longden Common from the village of Longden, a distance of about one and a quarter miles, and by this means twenty-four houses will receive a supply.

Negotiations have been entered into with the Borough of Shrewsbury for a supply of 300,000 gallons a day from the Shrews-

bury supply for the eastern part of the Atcham R.D. This will obviate the necessity of seeking a new source of supply in this area.

Details of proposed extensions to the West Atcham and Pimhill mains have been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval. The following are the places to be served by these proposed extensions:—

West Atcham Supply Pulverbatch, Yockleton, Westbury, Half Way House, Edge, Hinton, Farley, Asterley.

Pimhill Supply ... Shrawardine, Endson, Albrighton, Battle-field.

Apart from the two Council supplies the rest of the district is served by wells and springs and by small private piped supplies belonging to estates. Complaints are from time to time received concerning wells, and samples are taken and action advised when necessary to improve supplies.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal

Small disposal works have been installed during the year at Condover, Montford Bridge and Longden to serve the new houses built at these places. An extension to the sewers at Pontesbury to deal with the new houses being erected there has also been made.

The effluent from the works at Pontesbury was not satisfactory in 1945, but no sample has been taken during this year.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The fortnightly collection of refuse from the whole district has been continued during the year, and there are no changes to report. Disposal is by tipping at various sites.

BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

Water Supply

The supply has proved adequate in amount during the year, and it has not been necessary to curtail the supply at any period. The chlorinating plant at the Cabin has been in use throughout the year, and samples for bacteriological examination have been taken twice a month.

The results of these have been satisfactory. No new connections have been made to the supply.

The Council have had under consideration the best means of providing storage for water for use at times when the supply is short. The reservoir at Maesgwyn is not serviceable at present, and it appears doubtful whether it can be made so at a reasonable expense.

Out of 396 houses in the town area there are 374 to which the supply is piped, the remaining houses getting water from wells and springs.

A chemical examination of the water in June, 1947, shows the water to be satisfactory.

Sewers and Drains

The Surveyor reports that no new connections were made to the sewers during the year. The sewage disposal works have functioned well, and some new parts were supplied for one of the filter beds. No test of the effluent was made during the year.

It is estimated that 353 of the total of 396 houses are connected to the sewers.

Refuse Disposal

A weekly collection is made in the town, and refuse is tipped at Moat Hill. The Council might perhaps consider the provision of dustbins for each house, as at present refuse is often placed in boxes and other unsuitable receptacles which makes the task of collection more difficult and more untidy. A small charge could be made for these and for their renewal as required. Collection is carried out by contract. No nuisance has been reported from the tip.

CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

Water Supply

The three supplies proved adequate in amount during the year, and of a total of 690 houses in the area 632 have an indoor supply from the mains.

All the three supplies are chlorinated and tests for residual chlorine are made weekly. The reports on samples showed that all the samples from the New Pool Hollow supply were uniformly satisfactory. Two of the reports on the All Stretton supply were found to be unsatisfactory, but the Council have now taken over responsibility for this supply and since then results have been good.

At the Town Brook Hollow the new chlorinating plant has worked well, and samples free from contamination were obtained.

In the autumn a cloud-burst on the Longmynd resulted in the New Pool Hollow supply being discoloured, and this raised again the question of filtering this supply, a matter which has been previously considered and approved by the Council, but the project was abandoned after a meeting of ratepayers had made representations to the Ministry of Health.

The Council have had this question of filtration of the supply before them during the year, and it would certainly be an additional safeguard if some form of filtration could be introduced.

Full details of the three water supplies will be found in the Report for 1923, pages 23-25.

Sewerage

No new sewers were constructed during the year. The sewage works at Little Stretton have functioned satisfactorily and a good effluent was obtained. As has been previously noted, the sewage is greatly diluted with water which is getting into the sewers and which, of course, helps in getting a satisfactory result at the outfall.

Some difficulty has arisen with regard to the site for the new disposal works at All Stretton, but it is hoped that this will soon be settled and the works commenced.

Steps have been taken during the year to deal with rats in the sewers.

Refuse Collection

There is a weekly collection throughout the area and the refuse is tipped at the Council's field near the sewage disposal works at Little Stretton. Rats are kept under control by arrangement with the County Council Staff.

Salvage

During the year salvage to a total value of £147 was collected as compared with £143 in 1945.

CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

Water Supplies

The various piped supplies in the area have been adequate as regards quantity and quality during the year. As was mentioned in last year's report, the Council are responsible for some thirteen piped supplies and samples from these are taken quarterly. Samples from other sources such as wells, etc., are taken when any complaints regarding them are received, but with such a large number of private supplies it is impossible to take regular samples from all of them. In all, a total of 62 samples were collected and reported on, many of which were from new sources. Twenty-eight samples were satisfactory and thirty-four were not. Eleven chemical examinations were made of various new supplies, and these were all satisfactory.

The Council's own piped supplies serve about 580 houses in the district, or roughly one-fifth of the total houses.

Surveys of New Supplies

The two major sources for large new supplies which were mentioned last year have been gauged during the year. These were at Darnford, the Black Mountain and the third was the Elan Aqueduct supply of the Birmingham Corporation. The results obtained were not so satisfactory as had been hoped, as the flow from both sources was found to show great variation.

At Darnford the supply fell to 65,000 gallons per day at one period, and at the Black Mountain the lowest figure was below 30,000 gallons per day. The Surveyor has therefore begun to gauge other sources, as follows :—

- (a) Stream at Pound House, Trelystan, near the source of the present Worthen supply.
- (b) Stream near Cwm Moch, Mainstone Moor.
- (c) Stream near Brook House, Newfoundland, Clun.
- (d) Stream near Moor Hall Barn, Bettys-y-Crwyn.

Surveys are also being carried out to get a supply for Chirbury, Priest Weston, Gravel Bank, Hope Common and Ben Lont, and for providing a new source of supply for Marton and Rorrington, where the existing supply is liable to pollution and the pipes are corroded.

The schemes for supplies at Clungunford (including Broome and Aston-on-Clun) and Snailbeach have been submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval.

A bore-hole at the Council Houses, More, has been tested and the Council have asked their consulting engineer to prepare a scheme for a piped supply from this source to Linley, More and Lydham as water is needed in these places for the Council's housing schemes.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal

The Council's plans for sewerage and sewage disposal were mentioned in last year's report (page 21).

At the end of the year none of these schemes had been commenced, but it is hoped that work on those at Clun, Worthen and Aston-on-Clun will soon be started; as it is important from a housing standpoint that suitable disposal works should be available at those places.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced with regard to drainage at Kingsley Road, Knighton, but the Council hope to purchase the house at which the chief trouble exists, and to have new drains and sewers put in.

Refuse Disposal

The Council have had under consideration a proposal to have a fortnightly collection of refuse throughout the district. No definite

decision on this matter has yet been reached, but it should be possible to get such a scheme working as is done in other rural areas. The cost would be considerable and it might not be possible to cover the more isolated parts of the district, but for the villages it would be well worth while, as accumulations of rubbish near dwellings encourage the breeding of flies and in this way help to spread disease. At the present time the only parts of the area with a collection of refuse are Clun and Kinsley Road, Knighton.

BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

Water Supplies

The various supplies in the district have proved adequate in amount and in quality during the year.

Twenty-one samples of water have been submitted for bacteriological examination, and all have proved satisfactory except one of the samples from the well at Homer, which was taken after heavy flooding, and showed some pollution from vegetable matter.

The two main supplies are the Harrington Main and the Much Wenlock Supply, and the Council have now taken over the Little Wenlock Supply. The Harrington supply is chlorinated, but the other two are not.

Some of the farms and cottages in the more rural parts of the area still get a water supply from wells, but over 80% of the houses have either laid-on supplies from the mains or can get water from stand-pipes.

No chemical examinations of water samples were made during the year. An electrical breakdown at Broseley resulted in the water being cut off for a few days.

Generally speaking the district is well supplied with water of good quality, but it would be a good thing if some of the main supplies could be extended to the more out-lying districts.

The reservoir or tank at Little Wenlock should be protected by a cover as at present it can easily be contaminated.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal

Extensions to the sewers at Much Wenlock in connection with the Council's housing scheme have been made. About 130 yards of 9 in. sewer has been laid.

In the Madeley Ward, 100 yd. of 6 in. sewer was laid to take the sewage from twenty-six houses.

The sewage disposal plants at Madeley, Broseley and Much Wenlock have functioned well, and samples of the effluent have

proved satisfactory. In the Report for 1944, attention was drawn to the fact that half the houses in Madeley are not connected to the sewers and the same condition is found in Broseley.

A comprehensive scheme is needed for both areas, as present conditions are unsatisfactory. It is to be hoped that these will not be long delayed.

Refuse Disposal

Collection has been carried out at Much Wenlock and Broseley by contract, as in previous years, and disposal is by "tipping." In the Madeley Ward, house refuse has been collected by a hired lorry and the necessary labour, and cesspits have been emptied by direct labour. The provision of a complete sewage disposal scheme would obviate the necessity for this latter work, for which it is increasingly more difficult each year to get labour.

The Council have had under consideration the provision of a scheme of refuse collection through the four Wards, but at the time of writing (June, 1947) no decision has yet been reached on the matter. The large area concerned would make such a scheme more expensive than in a more circumscribed area, but as similar schemes exist in much larger rural areas this should not make a scheme impossible in the Borough.

There can be no doubt that the indiscriminate dumping of house refuse outside dwellings should be avoided if possible, as such accumulations result in plagues of flies and other nuisances.

SECTION D

HOUSING

During the year under review the total number of new Council houses completed in the five areas in South-West Salop was sixty-three. Of these houses twenty-four were of the brick type, twelve were Swedish timber houses, and the remaining twenty-seven were temporary houses.

In the previous year (1945) no houses were completed at all by the Councils, but two were built by private enterprise in one area. Progress therefore in the building of houses is very slow as yet, and is no doubt due to a variety of causes, among which are shortage of labour and material in the building trade.

In the post-war period, taking the country as a whole, most of the new buildings have been of the temporary type, of which some 92,000 were completed by the end of 1946, as against a total of 58,000 new permanent houses built in the same period. This latter figure includes houses rebuilt after being destroyed in the war.

The chief feature perhaps of the 1946 building schemes has been the large number of permanent houses on which work was started during the year—(201,000) and the small number completed by the end of the year (51,000).

The total labour force of the building industry had almost reached its pre-war figure by December, 1946, and it was the scarcity of material which was the chief cause of delay in getting more houses completed. This shortage is also likely to be the chief obstacle in the 1947 building programme.

Temporary bungalows (27) were erected in the Wenlock Borough during the year, and houses of this type have also been ordered by the Clun R.D.C. and by the Church Stretton U.D.C., and should prove of help in re-housing some of the smaller families.

It will be necessary for Councils to have houses of different sizes in the future so that they may be able to accommodate families of varying size. Up till now there has been a tendency to build all Council Houses of one size only—*i.e.*, the three-bedroomed type. As a result of this some families are overcrowded, as they require a larger house, and other families have a house which is too large for them. The solution of this difficulty is of course for Councils to have some two-bedroomed houses and a few four-bedroomed ones for the larger families.

There are, of course, in South Shropshire, as elsewhere, many of the smaller type of houses, but these are privately owned, and a Council cannot make a private owner accept tenants for his houses. Therefore, it will be necessary to build houses of varying sizes if all types of families are to be accommodated.

ATCHAM RURAL DISTRICT

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	5,300
Number of Council Houses	...	...	...	253
Houses completed in 1946—				
Permanent	...	...	...	8
Swedish Timber	...	...	...	12
Housing Programme :—				
Number to be completed in 1947	...	...	...	92
Number to be commenced in 1947	...	...	...	99
Tenders to be approved in 1947 so that houses may be commenced early in 1948	...	...	...	38
Long term housing programme—15 years	...	...	...	1,118
Number of applicants for houses as at 31/12/46 (approx.)	700			

The twelve Swedish timber houses at Condover were completed and are now tenanted. The site is a good one, and the houses have main water supply and indoor sanitation. There is a small sewage disposal works to the south of the site.

Six permanent cottages were completed at Longden, and these also have a good water supply from the Council's West Atcham mains.

Sewage disposal is to a small plant below the village.

Two cottages were also completed earlier in the year at Leebotwood, where two old cottages were demolished.

New Housing Sites

The Council have been active in acquiring and laying out new sites, and at the time of writing the following is the position as regards these sites (June, 1947) :—

Pontesbury	...	22 houses in course of erection (8 Airey type).
Ford	...	26 houses in course of erection (6 Airey type).
Montford Bridge		10 houses completed.
Cross Houses	...	Site laid out but 16 houses not yet commenced.
Minsterley	...	Site acquired but no work started yet.
Bomere Heath		10 houses in course of erection.
Hanwood	...	6 houses in course of erection.
Pulverbatch	...	Site being acquired.
Bayston Hill	...	8 houses in course of erection.
Cressage	...	4 Airey houses in course of erection.

In addition to the above schemes, negotiations for the erection of Airey houses at the following sites are progressing : Dorrington, Wroxeter, Astley, Westbury, Wattlesboro', and Alberbury.

BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	396
Number of Council Houses	...	...	...	48
Houses completed in 1946	...	...	...	Nil
Housing Programme—Permanent Houses	...	...	...	20
Number of applications for houses	...	...	...	40

The site at Corick's Meadow has now been laid out, but a start on the building of the houses had not been made by the end of the year. The houses to be built are of the three-bedroomed type, with indoor sanitation and main water and electricity.

The Inspector reports that 65 visits were paid in connection with housing matters. Seven complaints were received, and a total of ten preliminary and four statutory notices were issued, of which nine and one were complied with respectively.

It would be of assistance if a complete survey of all houses in the town were made soon, and then they could be placed in categories in the same way that houses in Rural Districts are being dealt with. In this manner a complete picture of the housing position would be obtained.

The categories in which houses could be placed are as follows :—

- (a) Fit in all respects.
- (b) Requiring minor repairs.
- (c) Requiring major repairs or reconstruction.
- (d) Unfit for habitation and suitable only for demolition.

Nearly all the houses in the town are on the main water supply and are also connected to the sewers. Some of the ones which are not are situated some distance from the mains, and this makes it difficult for them to be connected.

CHURCH STRETTON URBAN DISTRICT

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	684
Number of Council Houses	...	...	...	54
Houses completed in 1946	...	...	...	Nil

Housing programme :—

(a) To be completed in 1947—				
Temporary Houses	...	...	...	14
Permanent Houses	...	...	...	10
(b) To be completed in 1948—				
Permanent Houses	...	...	...	26
Approximate number of applications	...	...	...	110

Permanent Houses

The ten houses in Lutwyche Road are nearing completion (June, 1947) and are of the three-bedroomed type. There are two types: six houses being of one type and four of another, and are built on a good open site.

The Council plan to build eighteen more permanent houses on the Central Avenue site, and it is hoped that these will be commenced shortly.

Temporary Houses

The fourteen temporary houses arrived in May, 1947, and are now tenanted. The Council were fortunate in being allotted houses of the aluminium type, which have a kitchen, living-room and two bedrooms, and a bathroom and hall. The rent, inclusive of rates, will be 15s. 10d.

By giving these houses more space than is usual on the site the general appearance and amenities have been improved, and there is no reason why these houses should not be of great value to the community, as they provide a smaller type than the usual Council house, and therefore can be used for people with one or two children or for old couples.

Houses at All Stretton

Of the twenty-six new permanent houses which the Council hope to build in 1948, eight will be at All Stretton, but delay may be experienced, as it will not be possible to build them until the projected sewerage works are completed.

Housing Survey

In order to ascertain the condition of the older houses in the district it would be a good plan to have a complete survey made of the houses so that they could be classified according to their fitness as dwellings. This is being done in Rural Areas, and is the only way to find out what the housing problem in any area is. Houses could be classified as follows: (a) Fit in all respects. (b) Requiring minor repairs. (c) Requiring major structural alterations. (d) Unfit for habitation and unable to be rendered fit at a reasonable expense.

CLUN RURAL DISTRICT

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	2,880
Number of Council houses	...	...	...	73
Houses completed in 1946	...	...	...	1
Number of applications for houses (approx.)	...	...	...	350

Housing Programme—

(a) To be completed in 1947—

Permanent and Airey Type	13
Temporary	20

(b) To be commenced during 1947—

Permanent and Airey Type	45
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(c) Tenders to be obtained in 1947—

Permanent and Airey Type	40
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The Housing Committee anticipate that the following houses will be completed by 31/12/47 :—

District		Traditional	Airey	Temp.
Bucknell	...	...	4	—
Lydbury North	...	...	2	4
Newcastle	...	...	6	—
Clun	...	...	4	—
Brockton (Worthen)	...	...	—	7
Snailbeach	...	...	6	—
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals		22	11	20
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Houses to be commenced during 1947 :—

Rhiston	...	...	...	—	4	—
Chirbury	...	...	...	8	—	—
Marton'	...	...	...	4	—	—
Clunbury	...	...	...	4	—	—
Mainstone	...	...	...	—	4	—
Ben Lont	...	...	...	6	—	—
Brockton (Worthen)	...	...	—	—	11	—
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals		26	19	—	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Tenders to be obtained in 1947 :—

Bettys-y-Crwyn	...	...	...	—	4	—
Aston-on-Clun	...	...	...	6	4	—
Brockton (Worthen)	...	...	10	4	—	—
Snailbeach	...	...	12	—	—	—
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals		28	12	—	<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Temporary Bungalows

The twenty bungalows at Bucknell were erected in 1947 and are now tenanted (June, 1947). They are of the aluminium type and should do much to relieve the need for houses in that area of the district.

Airey Houses

In addition to the forty-two Airey houses already on the programme, the Council have decided to ask for a further fifty-six houses of this type, to be erected as follows:—

Four houses each at Rhiston, Bettws-y-Crwyn, Marton, Bryn, Whitcott, Keysett, Kempton, Colebatch, Llanfairwater-dine, Norbury, Moat Hill, and Aston-on-Clun.

Two each at Skyborry Green, Abcott and Bedstone.

Six houses at Lydbury North.

Swedish Houses

The four houses of this type at Lydbury North are now completed (June, 1947), but those at Worthen have not yet been commenced, owing to difficulties as regards the site in that area.

At the present time sixteen permanent type houses are in course of erection as under:—

Newcastle	...	6	Clun	...	...	4
Lydbury North	...	6	Bucknell	...	...	4
Snailbeach	...	6				

Housing Survey

This has been proceeded with during the year, but owing to other duties the Inspectors have not been able to make as much progress as expected. The condition of many of the older cottages makes it imperative that some reconstruction, of such as are worth it, should be carried out to make them habitable. Only by having a complete survey will it be possible to classify the houses and know the extent of the work required.

BOROUGH OF WENLOCK

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	4,372
Number of Council houses	...	...	...	557
New Houses built in 1946—				
(a) By the Council	...	...	...	39
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	...	—
Housing programme for 1947—				
Permanent houses	...	...	...	86
Temporary houses	...	...	...	13
Number of applications for houses—				805
Madeley	...	...	...	495
Broseley	...	...	...	180
Much Wenlock	...	...	...	120
Barrow	...	...	...	10

Permanent Houses

Of the thirty-nine houses completed in 1946, twelve were of the permanent type and were built at Broseley. Of the houses to be completed in 1947, ten at Broseley and six at Prince Street, Madeley, are now completed, and twenty in High Street, Madeley, will be completed in July, 1947. This leaves fifty houses at Hodge Croft site, Much Wenlock, to be completed by the end of 1947.

Temporary Houses

Twenty-seven temporary houses have been erected at Madeley. In addition to these a further thirteen temporary houses were completed in January, 1947 at Broseley, and are now occupied. The Council applied for 175 of these houses, but were only granted forty.

Housing Survey

It was decided to have a survey made of houses in the Madeley Ward, and a start was made on those houses which were tenanted by applicants for new houses. However, in May, 1947, the Madeley Committee decided not to go on with the survey, as there seemed little chance of material being made available for the repair or reconstruction of houses found to require either one or the other of these.

There are undoubtedly a great number of houses in the Borough which require repair to make them fit to live in, but at present it seems impossible to get much done except in the way of very urgent repairs.

Housing Inspections, etc.

Mr. C. J. Thomas supplies the following figures of inspections :—

Complaints received	...	35	Inspections made	...	410
Preliminary notices	...	6	Overcrowding reported	...	45
Notices complied with	...	6	Overcrowding abated	...	10
Statutory notices...	...	5	New W.C's	...	55
Notices complied with	...	5	Privies repaired	...	14
Cert. for essential repairs	96		Drains repaired	...	30
Houses disinfested	...	7	W.C's repaired	...	16
			Houses repaired	...	133

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Inspection

Slaughtering of animals for human food was carried on at the Central Slaughter-Houses, which are under the control of the Ministry of Food. At the time of writing it has not been decided what the future policy as regards slaughter-houses will be, and until this is decided on it will not be possible for local authorities to do anything as regards building more modern premises.

Inspection of meat is carried out at the Ministry's slaughter-houses, which are not in the area of the South-West Salop Districts, but are at Shrewsbury and Craven Arms.

Milk

As was mentioned in last year's report, the Ministry of Agriculture is to take over the supervision of milk production in the near future. Conditions under which milk is produced at many of the smaller farms in the area leave much to be desired. For example, many farms have an inadequate or polluted water supply and no proper dairy or sterilizer for the milking utensils. The projected new rural water supplies and extensions to some of the existing ones should help considerably in the case of many farms which at present have no piped supply.

A great amount of work will have to be done to bring many dairies and cowsheds up to the standard which is considered to be necessary by modern requirements. In some of the larger rural areas it would take up the time of a full-time inspector, with no other duties, to supervise this work in a satisfactory manner.

Heat-Treated Milk

The three plants at Hanwood, Minsterley and Iron Bridge have been regularly inspected, and samples of the heat-treated milk submitted for examination. Samples are also taken by the County Health Staff and reports are interchanged with them. The results have been uniformly satisfactory throughout the year, all the samples passing the two prescribed tests. No area has as yet been scheduled by the Ministry of Food as one in which only heat-treated or "T.T." or "Accredited" Milk can be sold. The reason for this is that there is not yet sufficient plant to enable all milk to be so heat-treated.

Ice Cream

Following an outbreak of Typhoid Fever at Aberystwyth, which was traced to ice cream being contaminated by a "carrier" of the disease, the Ministry of Health issued a Circular (183/46—dated 8th October, 1946), in which the attention of local authorities was drawn to their powers to control the cleanliness of ice cream under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. The Ministry have also drawn up draft Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, under which the mixture to be frozen will have first of all to be subjected to heat treatment. It is hoped that these steps will help to prevent the spread of disease through eating ice cream.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES. 1946.

DISTRICT	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Dysentery	C.S.M.
	Cases	Hospital	Cases	Hospital	Cases	Hospital	Cases	Hospital	Cases
Atcham	7	2	—	1	—	9	—	49	—
Bishop's Castle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Stretton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clun	2	—	—	—	—	5	—	10	—
Wenlock	4	2	—	—	—	3	—	17	—
S.W. Salop	14	4	—	1	—	19	—	77	—
Incidence rate per 1,000 of pop. :—									
S.W. Salop	0.29	0.02	0.40	—	1.62	0.04	0.04	14.01*	0.02
ENGLAND & WALES...	1.38	0.28	3.92	—	2.28	0.03	0.22	9.68*	0.05

* Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The incidence of Infectious Disease has been very low during the year, and no serious epidemics took place.

Only fourteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and these were all mild cases, only four being sent to the isolation hospital. One case of Diphtheria was reported, the patient being a child who had not been immunized against the disease. The child made a good recovery.

One case of Typhoid Fever was notified in the Atcham R.D., the patient having acquired the disease while on holiday at Aberystwyth, where there was an epidemic of the disease. The patient was isolated at Monkmoor Hospital, and no further cases were reported.

One case of Para-Typhoid "A" Fever was notified in the Clun area, and was isolated at home. In this case the disease was acquired while the child was on holiday in Devon, where there was a small outbreak of the disease.

Whooping Cough was most prevalent in the Atcham Rural District, where forty-nine cases were reported. In the other areas there were twenty-eight cases notified.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION

The protection of the children against Diphtheria has been continued as in former years. This is carried out—

(a) By private practitioners under the schemes of the local authorities.

(b) By the County Health Staff at Schools and Welfare Centres.

The following are the numbers of children immunized during the year ending 31st December, 1946 :—

Area	Under 5 yrs.		5-15 yrs.		-5	Totals	All ages
	Pte.	C.C.	Pte.	C.C.			
Atcham ...	139	169	7	56	308	63	371
Bishop's Castle ...	3	7	—	—	10	—	10
Church Stretton...	8	16	3	—	24	3	27
Clun R.D. ...	75	78	4	13	153	17	170
Wenlock M.B. ...	51	144	10	32	195	42	237
S.W. Salop ...	276	414	24	101	690	125	815

The percentage of children immunized is approximately 90% of the children of school age and 60% of the children aged under five years. The important aim now is that as high a number of children as is possible should be protected as soon after their first birthday as can be arranged.

It will be seen from the above figures that 300 children have been immunized by private doctors and 515 by the Staff of the County Health Dept.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following were the numbers of notified cases of Tuberculosis on the registers of the five districts on the 31st December, 1946 :—

Area	Number of Pulmonary Cases		Number of Non-Pulm. Cases		Total Cases	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Atcham R.D. ...	56	35	35	27	91	60
Bishop's Castle M.B. ...	4	6	2	2	6	8
Church Stretton U.D.	12	9	5	3	17	12
Clun R.D. ...	23	19	21	16	44	35
Wenlock M.B. ...	26	13	16	23	42	36
Totals—S.W. Salop...	121	80	79	71	200	151

These figures show an increase of 23 cases now on the Registers as compared with the figures on 31/12/45. The increase is chiefly due to female pulmonary cases, which have increased by thirteen.

New Cases Notified

Thirty-seven new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, which is fewer than the average number of new cases in the last six years. The distribution of the new cases in the districts was as follows :—

Area	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm.		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Atcham R.D. ...	5	8	—	2	15
Bishop's Castle M.B. ...	—	1	—	—	1
Church Stretton M.D. ...	—	2	—	1	3
Clun R.D. ...	2	2	2	2	8
Wenlock M.B. ...	5	1	1	3	10
South-West Salop ...	12	14	3	8	37

Deaths and Death Rates

The total number of deaths notified as being due to Tuberculosis was seven, of which number five were from the pulmonary form of the disease and two from non-pulmonary forms.

The deaths and death rates for 1946 and the previous seven years were as follows :—

Year	Total No. of deaths		Death rates per 1,000 of pop.		
	Pulm.	Non-pulm.	Pulm.	Non-pulm.	Total
1939	...	13	3	0.280	0.064
1940	...	14	4	0.292	0.083
1941	...	14	7	0.273	0.136
1942	...	19	5	0.382	0.101
1943	...	19	4	0.392	0.090
1944	...	16	—	0.337	0.000
1945	...	12	8	0.259	0.173
1946	...	5	2	0.105	0.042
					0.147

The death rates for the whole country for the year 1945 were : Pulmonary=0.515 and Non-Pulmonary=0.099 per 1,000. Total death rate (all forms)=0.614 per 1,000.

The following table gives the deaths and death rates for each area :—

District	No. of Deaths				Death rate per 1,000 of population			
	Pulm.		Non- Pulm. forms		All Pulm.		Non- Pulm. Forms	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Pulm.	Non- Pulm.	All	Forms
Atcham R.D.	...	3	—	1	—	4	0.150	0.050
Bishop's Castle M.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Church Stretton U.D.	1	—	—	—	—	1	0.411	—
Clun R.D.	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wenlock M.B.	...	1	—	1	—	2	0.060	0.060
S.W. Salop Districts	5	—	2	—	7	0.105	0.042	0.147

Treatment

The County Council are responsible for the treatment of cases and particulars of the work during the year are given in the annual report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

CANCER

The total number of deaths from Cancer was eighty-five, and the following are the numbers for each area :—

Area	No. of deaths from Cancer			Death rate per 1,000 of pop.	
	Male	Female	Total		
Atcham R.D.	...	12	13	25	1.250
Bishop's Castle M.B.	...	1	1	2	1.492
Church Stretton U.D.	...	3	6	9	3.706
Clun R.D.	...	9	10	19	2.055
Wenlock M.B.	...	15	15	30	2.089
S.W. Salop	...	40	45	85	1.773

The death rates from Cancer for the previous seven years were as follows, and the rates for the country as a whole are also given :—

Year	Death rate from Cancer		
	per 1,000 of population		
	S.W. Salop	Eng. & Wales	
1939	1.855	1.628	
1940	1.609	1.723	
1941	2.218	1.780	
1942	1.832	1.834	
1943	2.086	1.899	
1944	1.812	1.897	
1945	1.427	1.933	

It will be seen from the table showing the causes of deaths in the area that 85 out of a total of 569 deaths were due to Cancer—which is about one out of every seven deaths.

CANCER ACT, 1939.—It is hoped that a comprehensive scheme for diagnosis and treatment for the whole West Midland Area will soon be formulated under this Act.

CAUSES OF DEATHS—1946

Cause	Atcham	Bishop's Castle	Church Stretton	Clun	Wenlock	S.W. Salop
Heart Disease ...	65	4	11	36	46	162
Cancer ...	25	2	9	19	30	85
Intra-Cranial Vasc. Dis. ...	29	4	7	16	26	82
Bronchitis ...	11	2	—	8	13	34
Pneumonia ...	10	—	—	4	9	23
Violence ...	6	—	2	—	8	16
Dis. of Digest. ...	6	—	—	4	5	15
Influenza ...	4	—	1	2	4	11
Prem. Birth ...	1	—	—	3	6	10
Congen. Malf., etc.	8	—	2	3	3	16
Nephritis ...	6	—	—	4	—	10
Tuberculosis— Pulmonary ...	3	—	1	—	1	5
Other ...	1	—	—	—	1	2
Other Respir. ...	1	—	—	4	1	6
Suicide ...	1	—	—	1	3	5
Gastr. Ulcer ...	3	—	1	—	1	5
Diabetes ...	—	—	1	1	2	4
Road Traffic Acc.	2	—	1	—	1	4
Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs.) ...	2	—	—	—	1	3
Appendicitis ...	2	—	—	—	—	2
Other Diseases of Circulation ...	5	—	2	3	5	15
All other causes ...	15	—	4	6	29	54
Totals ...	206	12	42	114	195	569

